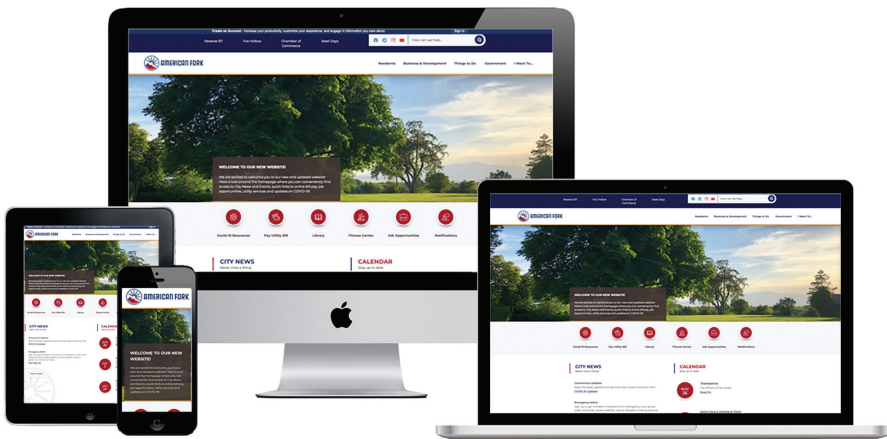


# The HUB

The Official Newsletter of American Fork City

## AF Launches New Website

Site Serves as a Central Hub of City Information



American Fork City has launched its new website located at **americanfork.gov** that aims to continually improve access to public services and information for the people of American Fork.

The City's Communications team spent months collaborating with CivicPlus to develop a more user-friendly site, which serves as a central hub of city information. The website redesign allows visitors to easily navigate with a homepage that features visible links to commonly requested services such as permitting, utility bill pay and meeting agendas. Residents also have easier access to the latest news releases, social media feeds and calendars for City events and public meetings.

Many key features of the new website can be accessed directly from the new dynamic homepage that includes a "How Do I" tab that takes community members directly to the most sought after information.

The new, service-focused website is also mobile-friendly, secured for user privacy protection, and makes accessibility a priority. The city's site has been

reprogrammed to incorporate the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 standards set by the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI). Some significant examples of ADA compliance include:

- Use of appropriate color contrast ratios.
- Selection of ADA compliant font size and type style.
- Increased use of white space giving the eyes more visual breathing room.
- Use of coding that allows site elements to be effectively read by a screen reader.
- Tagged photos with alternate text that can be read by an assistive device for the visually impaired.
- Close-captioned videos for the hearing impaired.

The new website will continue to grow and be modified based on citizens feedback to ensure the website is an effective tool for everyone.

For more information regarding American Fork City, please visit the newly redesigned **americanfork.gov**. Like, follow and watch us on Facebook®, Twitter®, Instagram®, and YouTube®.

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## Office Numbers

Administration .....	801-763-3000
Public Works.....	801-763-3060
Library .....	801-763-3070
Fitness Center.....	801-763-3080
Senior Center.....	801-763-3090

## Non-Emergency

Police .....	801-763-3020
Fire & Rescue.....	801-763-3045

## On-Call / After-Hour

Water/Pressurized .....	801-404-1253
Sewer/Storm Drain .....	801-404-7167
Streets .....	801-404-1255
Garbage .....	801-924-8500
Street Lights .....	801-814-4311



**AMERICAN FORK**  
www.americanfork.gov



# 20 Years of Library History

When American Fork began growing rapidly in the early 1990's, the need for a larger and more accessible library building became apparent. With input from staff, Board members, City Council members, and residents of the city, a plan for a new building was created. A bond to provide funds for the new building passed November 1997 with a 77% approval rate. June 1, 1998 marked the groundbreaking for our current building and took nearly two years to complete construction.

## How has the library changed over the past 20 years?

### Numbers

- The community we serve has grown significantly since 2000. American Fork's population has increased from 22,542 to 34,153.
- Circulation has also grown over the years. The year the building opened a total of 202,273 physical items were checked out. In the past year a total of 369,558 items have been borrowed from the library.
- eBooks and eAudiobooks for OverDrive were made available through the Utah State Library beginning in 2008. In 2012, we began purchasing additional advantage titles just for our patrons. Downloadable items made up 28% of the last year's total checkouts!

### Spaces

- We outgrew the original Story Corner that was used for many years to present Storytime and other programs. The Community Room and Robinson Park allowed for bigger crowds. The library recently received a PARC grant to expand the Children's Library by adding a larger program room specifically dedicated to Children's programs.
- Our mezzanine now includes an art gallery where we feature local artists. The Library Balcony Gallery has presented over 300 shows!
- The Learning Center (formally the Literacy Center) is housed at the library. Staff and volunteers tutor early readers, help with homework, and teach ESL classes. The Learning Center has



## Help Us Celebrate 20 Years!

Thanks for sharing the past 20 years with us. Visit the Library for a "Roaring" good time all next month. Check out our December newsletter for a list of celebratory events in the library, on our Facebook page, and at a nearby movie theater. For more information visit:

[americanfork.gov/1017/Library-Newsletter](http://americanfork.gov/1017/Library-Newsletter)

served thousands of American Fork's youngest residents.

- The Library Rotunda has hosted hundreds of concerts, displays, art shows, escape games, author events, dance performances, and more! We have held Christmas in the Rotunda during the month of December since the early 2000's.

### Programs and Materials

- In 2008, we set up a co-op with neighboring libraries to allow reciprocal borrowing. Today, patrons from American Fork, Pleasant Grove, Lehi, Highland, and Eagle Mountain can use their cards at any partner library for free.
- A grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation provided public internet computers as part of the new

building. Our updated computers are in constant use and Wi-Fi has expanded internet availability throughout the facility.

- Materials once considered non-traditional for libraries are now some of our most popular items for check out. These items include games, book club sets, Kindles and Early Literacy Kits.

### COVID-19 and the library

2020 has been a year unlike any other in the history of the library! Due to COVID-19, the library was closed to the public beginning March 14 for over ten weeks. Curbside pickup started April 1 so patrons could have access to physical library items. The library reopened to the public on May 26 with new policies in place, including the process of quarantining items for several days before checking them back into the library.

**Virtual programming** suddenly became the best way for the library to reach our community. Some of our most successful programs include online story time, virtual paint nights, mental health awareness classes via Zoom, and a day-long Harry Potter Birthday Celebration on Facebook Live.

**Summer Reading** looked a little different this year as well. We scrapped our original plans and created a pandemic-friendly program for all ages. The Adventure Kits allowed everyone to participate in a fun summer program from home!

# Talk Shop With a Cop

## Making an Effort to Understand Other Perspectives

As we look at the world around us, there seems to be an increasing environment of contention and conflict. We seem to be losing our ability as a society to value, respect, and consider the views of those around us. However, there is strength in diversity, and making an effort to understand the many perspectives we encounter each day can help bridge the divides in our community.

The Arbing Institute, an organization that has spent 45 years researching the psychology of human behavior and motivation, instructs us that we should strive to see those around us as people, not problems. This means that we should consider that everyone has their own set of hopes, dreams, fears, and challenges. Often times we tend to focus on others' faults and differences we perceive. The Arbing Institute goes on to say that when we begin to see others as people, "issues related to race, ethnicity, religion, and so on begin to look and feel different. We end up seeing people who have hopes, dreams, fears, and even justifications that resemble our own."

The Arbing Institute indicates, "In the way we regard our children, spouses, neighbors, colleagues, and strangers, we choose to see others either as people like ourselves or as objects. They either count like we do or they don't. When we betray ourselves, others' faults become immediately inflated in our hearts and minds. We begin to 'horribilize' others. That is, we begin to make them out to be worse than they really are. And we do this because the worse they are, the more justified we feel in how we act, think, and see them."

As humans, we all have our own imperfections, and we should give others the same understanding and respect that we would all like to be given when our imperfections or points of view are presented. There are times that we hold those around us to a standard of perfection. This is unrealistic and unobtainable. One of the ways to counter this is to approach life with the gift of curiosity. We should be curious about the lives of others. We can consider their points of view and life circumstances, and then with mutual respect, choose to agree or disagree. We should value the richness of the diversity around us and use it to expand our learning and the lives we live.

The officers of the American Fork Police Department are trained to see people as individuals and not as suspects, as outlined by the Arbing Institute's Outward Mindset Curriculum. Along with training from the Arbing Institute, the department has implemented numerous programs to help create and maintain good relationships with the public. To get a more in-depth look at our training and community programs, visit [americanfork.gov](http://americanfork.gov) and download the latest "Citizens Want to Know" article on community policing.

to contact the police department if you have any questions; e-mails may be sent to [polictalkshop@americanfork.gov](mailto:polictalkshop@americanfork.gov) or [alunt@americanfork.gov](mailto:alunt@americanfork.gov). Depending on the number and type of questions received, your question may be answered via the city newsletter, e-mail, or phone call.



## communities that care

American Fork Communities That Care would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. We are so thankful for how far our coalition has come over this last year and are excited for all that we will be able to accomplish in 2021. One of our biggest accomplishments from this year was applying for and receiving a grant that will be used specifically for the reduction of youth substance abuse. Some of the funding from this grant will be used to install vaping sensors in the restrooms at American Fork High School, Polaris West High School, and American Fork Junior High. We will also be able to offer the Project Towards No Drug Abuse and Guiding Good Choices Programs. These programs will start at the beginning of next year. More information will be coming soon!

Our Communities That Care Coalition is always looking for new members to make a difference in the lives of our youth. If you are interested in getting involved, please email [afctc@americanfork.gov](mailto:afctc@americanfork.gov).



## AMERICAN FORK COMMUNITY SURVEY

What are your thoughts on AF services, quality of life, and funding needs in the city? Do you think Fiber in the city is a good thing? Please tell us in our annual American Fork City Community Survey, available right now!

You can take the survey online at [americanfork.gov/survey](http://americanfork.gov/survey). Additionally, hard copies will be available in all city facilities.

Gathering resident opinions is invaluable to us as we make decisions for the City. The survey is brief and should only take about 10 minutes to complete, and your responses WILL NOT be individually tracked.

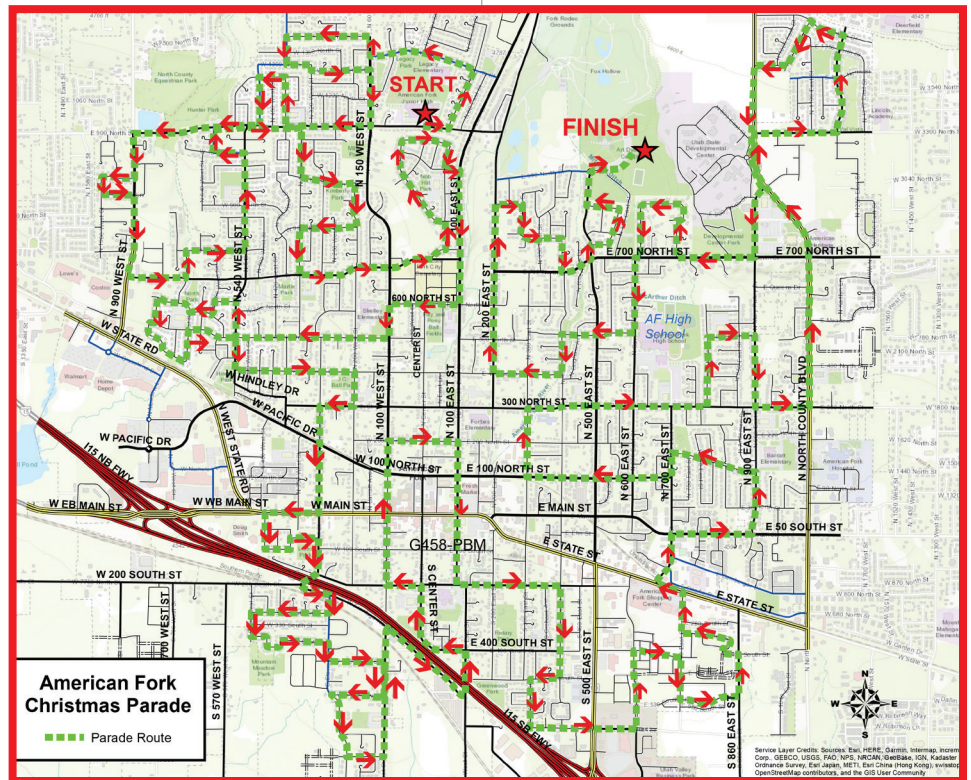
The survey closes Thursday, December 31. If you have any questions or concerns about the survey, please contact the Community Services Director at (801)763-3000.



Santa Claus will be collecting letters at our library this year! Drop by any time we are open from December 1 through 23. There will be paper and envelopes available. Everyone who leaves a letter will receive a bag of crafts and goodies. Thank you to the Friends of the Library and Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring this event!

On Saturday December 5, from 2:00 P.M. -5:00 P.M., watch for Santa's parade to come by your home in celebration of the upcoming holiday season. Santa will be winding his way through town starting at American Fork Jr. High and ending at Art Dye Park.

Visit [americanfork.gov](http://americanfork.gov) to learn more!



If you or someone you know is experiencing stress, anxiety or depression because COVID-19, The Utah Strong Recovery Project offers crisis counselors seven days a week, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. All information is confidential and free of charge.

**Please call or text  
385-386-2289**

**For immediate response  
after hours, call  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

Many small businesses across the country are struggling because of COVID-19 and American Fork is no exception. While looking for that perfect gift for your friends and family this year, please consider shopping locally.

American Fork has a wide variety of local shops that have gift ideas for any age and many stores offer online ordering and curbside pickup making shopping safe for everyone!

Efforts you make to buy in American Fork helps to support local businesses, local jobs, and keep sales tax in American Fork, which is good for everyone.

We want to make sure you get that right gift that expresses your love and appreciation. Be safe and have fun! Thank you for your support this holiday season.



Republic Services will be offering free dumpsters exclusively for disposing of Christmas trees. These dumpsters will be located at the City's salt dome lot on 240 E 200 N after Christmas through January. The dumpsters

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